

An Essay  
on  
"Syphilization".

Respectfully Submitted to the  
Faculty of the Homoeopathic Medical  
College of Penn<sup>a</sup>

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"But Jove, who saw from high with just disdain  
The dead inspired with vital breath again,  
Struck to the center with his flaming dart  
Th' unhappy founder of the godlike art"

Æneid VII. 71

"Why," says a critical writer of the middle  
ages, "Should Æsculapius be thus struck  
with a thunder-bolt for restoring Hyppolitus  
to life, and his followers be pardoned who send  
so many souls from life to death?"

Could the shade of Hippocrates have  
crossed the Styx and wandered again  
through his favorite haunts, what a picture  
of his art would there have been presented  
to him—How had it stood the test of ages?  
After the lapse of full two thousand years



he finds but little change in that vast edifice  
of which he had so firmly laid the foundation.  
Many indeed essayed to add their work  
to his, but none, on comparison with the  
original, was found to harmonize. And now  
lying round about and obstructing every approach  
he has gathered into uneasy piles the result  
of the labors of those, wishing to add a stone to the  
vast creation of his genius - Now alas, only  
hindrances in the path of future labors. The  
superstructure had yet to be accomplished, nor  
had he yet been found who had the ability  
to undertake it -

Throughout the long list of great names  
inscribed emblazoned on the title pages of  
historic medicine, how many do we find to  
have in reality accomplished nothing?

Beginning with Podalirus, Asclepius' son,



who first drew life blood from the human vein,  
we find nothing recorded until the advent  
of Hippocrates, with his many aphorisms - After him  
Cnepsippus appears upon the stage and  
overthrew all his teacher had advanced -  
He in turn is treated in like manner by one  
Heraclides - Many followed him each in  
turn condemning the doctrines of his predecessor:  
until at length Galen steps in, and with  
his four elementary qualities of Airs - heat,  
Cold, dryness & moisture - held sway until the  
time of Paracelsus who considered it his part  
in the drama to overthrow everything advanced  
before and to reestablish medicine on a new  
basis - Thus we obtained a vast mass  
of Eclecticism from which it was the difficult  
task of the student to cull what might be  
true & useful - But "truth" could no



longer brook the inglorious bonds which chained  
it to the low idea of our illustrious prede-  
cessor Hippocrates, but in the garb of "Similia  
Similibus" rose like a meteor in the far  
off horizon, pausing only in its course to take  
its place as a star of the first magnitude -  
- Mark how the Sage, with glass in hand,  
scans the wide expanse - see with what  
pleasure he recognizes each familiar group  
passing in review before him - once the companions  
of his midnight vigils - right after right he  
thus has sat each on its turn bringing some new  
food for reflection, but at length his insatiate  
mind has exhausted all within its reach and  
now wanders at will through the barren fields  
which he has spoiled - and look with what  
despair he now regards what was once the  
source of so much gratification - And will



he might, for nature yielded not tamely after  
secrets - But now with renewed spirit he  
searches with falcon eye their innermost depths  
but still some fortune forsakes him - yet still  
his countenance brightens - and now it is changed  
again - surely 'tis some Chimera of an excited  
imagination that thus blots out all other objects  
from his view - his hand is passed across  
his maned eyes - he looks again, and still  
his cautious mind can scarce believe his  
eyes - he knows by intuition that he sees before  
him on his mind's grasp that long sought for  
object -

Thus it was Similia was pledged -  
Amid the trap of Sophistry with which  
Cullen enveloped each idea, however plausible  
the discriminative mind of Heahnuman, intuitively  
as it were, first detected the existence of his



universal principle -

The faithful reaction, from the shock which the medical world received when Jenner enunciated his theory, had hardly obtained when it was again aroused by Hahneman's "Similia" - The history of its development is too well known to need comment - it is the primer of the student of Homoeopathy. But what as to its state at the present day?

Each man is differently constituted from his fellow - as in body so in mind, the one stands preeminently above the other - How then could we expect a similarity of Sentiment - Though they may agree as regards the truth of any principle, still they always differ more or less as regards the mode of its application - Is it not



been with Christianity - the numerous sects  
of Christians all agreeing in the Essence  
of the faith, but differ in regard to the  
forms ect - So it is now with Homeopathy  
all agreeing in the truth of "Similia" but  
differing somewhat as to its extent & mode  
of application - Such indeed has  
been the fate of every great truth that has  
been dwelt upon by the mind of man -  
Some minds are satisfied with the practical  
application of such truths - they behold  
the effect; they have the cause at their  
finger's end; - the knowledge of the how and  
the wherefore they have not nor can for -  
They gaze into the vista beyond and see nothing  
but an interminable trap of facts & theories  
and taking advantage of the experience of others  
which has fully proved the folly of the indulgence



wisely Content themselves with the Evidence  
before them - Others again must know the  
Why & the Wherefore of Every thing; they seek to  
athom the inner recesses of Nature, and  
by their Superior Wisdom compel her to yield  
up her greatest secrets - As well might  
we attempt to answer that all-important  
question "What is life?" as well attempt  
the solution of the problem of Eternity -  
the bare idea of which is far beyond our  
comprehension - as explain the "modus  
vivendi" of a dog, dynamised or not, ~~or the~~  
It has indeed been the fortune of many to have  
wasted their time and talents in abortive search  
for that hidden power which exerts its influence  
in every form & feature of life - gradually  
led on by some ignorant fancies of their excited  
imagination, until at length they have become



beclouded & lose themselves in a maze of  
impracticable theories of their own creation - Such  
is the result of all such trains of reasoning  
which would place man on the same stand-  
point from which Nature views the beauty and  
harmony of her works - - - - -

There is one peculiar characteristic  
of many Homeopaths, and that is "the  
great solicitude they have for the source of  
all information" - repudiating every thing derived  
of Allopathy - They forget the results of  
Hahnemann's search amongst the Allopathic  
Records and in a spirit of false pride ask  
"Can any good come out of Babel?"  
They would, no doubt, content themselves  
with the prima-para thoughts of the  
followers of Hahnemann - Many of them  
might be greatly benefited by careful



reflection on that remark of the Irish Cullen  
"that a very fertile source of false facts, is, the  
vanity of being the authors of observations which  
are often too hastily made, and sometimes perhaps  
entirely dressed in the cloth."

The records of Med. Jurisprudence & Toxicology  
of the old School are as invaluable  
to us as the well authenticated proving of  
Hahneman - In them we find the only means  
of supplying the many gaps now in our  
Rational Medica - And also in many of  
their most extensive & most plausible theories  
we catch glimpses of the gentle law of  
"Similia" - Their many experiments guided by  
Empiricism alone often result in additional  
confirmation of its truth -

When it was announced to the world of  
Medicine that Syphilis had been cured by



Upsala inoculations of the Syphilitic virus  
it has not denounced without a hearing as is  
usually the fate of such seeming Extravagance, but  
giving the Evidence all due weight a conclusion  
is deferred until further results may be obtained.

Thus it was with this subject of Syphilization  
breached for the first time some six years since.  
Meeting with impartial judgement even in the  
most critical journals of England

It had its origin with a Frenchman  
Mr. Alzais Ponsome, who while experimenting  
upon animals found that after a number of  
inoculations they became proof against the  
Syphilitic virus - Starting from this he conceived  
the idea of using continued inoculations for  
the Cure of Syphilis - and which according  
to him & a few others has been speedily  
realized - It was at first proposed



as a prophylactic against Syphilis; but  
this Chimerical idea was soon abandoned  
on reflecting that this disease, so horrible in  
its nature, is reserved for those who attract  
it themselves — About the same time  
a Dr Spruns of Pirm was possessed of the  
same idea — and Experimenting on his patient  
Jothmills, was very successful; reporting some fifty  
or sixty cures — all of which he alleges to have  
cured — But Dr Wilhelm Boiss, of  
the University of Norway, goes still farther and  
shows us where it is, or is not of avail — He  
thus describes the process —

"Without any

other preparation than a warm bath, or in my  
private practice even without this, I apply  
on each thigh, and on each arm, or on the  
sides only, three inoculations in every one of



these places, with matter taken from a primary  
ulcer, or from an artificially produced one in  
a person who has been syphilized - I choose  
the first named place for those who are lying  
in the Hospital, but I inoculate the sides  
of those, who, during syphilization, are going  
out attending to their business; however I must  
add, that I never confine my inoculations  
exclusively to the sides; if they do not prove  
effectual there, I apply them on the thighs,  
on which we shall almost always find  
the ulcers to be larger, deeper, and of longer  
duration; therefore I think this place the best,  
and never fail inoculating there - Every third  
day I inoculate anew; as long as the last  
inoculations produce pustules, I take the  
matter from these - In some instances the  
inoculated person becomes proof to one sort



of virus: I then take the matter for inoculation  
from another, preferring a case that has had  
a different origin: this then proves effectual.  
But sometimes they become proof to this also,  
and then I seek for a third source; and then  
I go on as long as any matter will operate."

He claims that immunity follows the above  
treatments which on the average requires about  
three months. The symptoms of Constitutional  
Syphilis not always vanishing immediately but  
sometimes lingering for some months.

According to him it does not cure all cases  
— in those who have been treated with Iodine  
he conjoints other medicinal treatment before  
he produces any effect — also in affections  
of the osseous system — it eradicates the pain  
somewhat but produces no apparent effect  
— here also he conjoints lodine and brings about



a Veneficial effect - known diseases & venereal  
maladies are referable to mercury & for this  
reason are not affected by the process -

No relapses are recorded during the space of  
six years which this system has been practised -

Heister has said that a chancre  
cannot be produced in a person affected  
with Secondary Syphilis, by matter taken from  
one of his own sores - Recidiv coincides  
with him but continues no further -

We have frequently of late years seen  
incidental mention of the Circumstance without  
comment - But even Dr. Wm. Porter of  
the Royal Col. of Surgeons of Ireland asks  
attention to the fact so frequently observed, but  
so often passed by without notice, that if  
a tainted mother has a pocky child, she  
may tend & smother the child without the slightest



risk of being inoculated by it, but if she gives  
it out to another woman to nurse, this latter will  
be most certainly affected" - From this he  
obtains, and sustains as far as possible with  
facts from his own experience & that of others, the  
law that "the infection of Syphilis never  
returns upon itself or recontaminates the source  
from which it has been derived" - Now  
supposing this law to be true - though many  
doubt it - often from mere scepticism - Callin  
to mind also that syphilization is only practised  
on those affected with Secondary or tertiary Syphilis  
where the matter inoculated is taken from a  
primary sore on the person of another - also the  
manner in which the process is carried on  
the matter for a fresh inoculation taken from  
that sore which immediately preceded it -  
the time also taken to produce immunity



generally in the neighborhood of three months -  
not forgetting that the patient has at the time  
conveying through his veins a fair sample of that  
poison virus - Can we explain the apparent  
cure in any other way than by ascribing it  
at once to the principle "Similia"? -

The pustular stage of the primary Cow  
is well known to be but a local disease -  
about the fourth day it generally begins  
to change its character and the general  
system shows signs of irritation - and then  
the process of complete absorption goes on unless  
checked by appropriate treatment -

That the poison exists in the systems of  
those affected in different degrees of strength  
there can be no doubt - Indeed we see evidence  
of the fact each day of practice - This may  
be owing to the modification by treatment



or by the natural strength of the Constitution  
enabling it in a great degree to be thrown  
off - That the degree of strength of the  
virus of the primary Pore exceeds that which  
lies latent in the human organism is  
easily conceived - as the virus must be of  
a greatly finer to be absorbed into the system  
& found combining with every fluid of the body -  
In the production of Syphilization the  
patients are those having the poison lying  
latent in their systems - on inoculating  
them with the virus taken from a primary  
sore, the degree of virulence of the poison  
so overbalances the Constitutional affection  
that the characteristic sore is produced -  
the second inoculation follows with the  
same result, the virus still exceeding in strength  
the Constitutional disease - then the third in



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like Enamur - but all this time while  
they are attempting to produce new pustules,  
those previously produced take on the power  
of absorption and <sup>add</sup> this power to the constitu-  
-tional virus - Each succeeding inoculation  
thus becoming less active until at length  
no effect whatever is produced - having - we  
propose - arrived at that point at which  
the two virus of distinct separate origin have  
become so amalgamated as to become one  
and the same, and because "the infection  
of Syphilis never recontaminates the source  
from which it has been derived" the charac-  
-teristic effect is wanting - Having effected  
this much they try another virus and the  
same process is gone through with always  
producing the same result - perfect immunity  
from the matter taken from a sore upon the



patient himself - but each virus of distinct  
origin producing the characteristic effect -

Can we call this a cure, even an alleviation?  
For during the process of inoculation they are  
obliged to use internal treatment at the  
same time, to allay the additional irritation  
produced by the local sores - And  
indeed in many cases recorded by  
Dr Boeck we find that he continued  
to give his antiodotal remedies at the same  
time he was pursuing the process of in-  
oculation - Then how we have a patient using  
an External Remedy and at the same  
time taking an antidote internally - And  
in those cases which Dr reports cured & has  
since suffered no relapse is it not probable  
that many is of such Constitution that it  
would require a powerful exciting cause to



arouse the latent disease -

But independent of every other Consideration  
since it cannot effect the well known results  
of Mercury so universally joined with  
Syphilis - why should we submit any one  
to so trying an Experiment - particularly  
since in the pages of our *Matina Medica*  
we find the records of more sure & speedy  
means of relief - Why not at once  
adopt Ricord's favorite treatment by which  
he pretends that "in from four to six weeks  
he cures every Constitutional Syphilis, that  
he ensures no any relapses and still  
less any paralytic mental Maladies &c"

If we must use such treatment why  
not at once modify it and add "Syphilin"  
to our *Matina Medica* -